

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

Listing of Claims

1-8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A multimedia communication apparatus that transmits control data to start transmitting stream data comprising an image stream or a voice stream, said apparatus comprising:

an accumulator that accumulates a plurality of groups into which a plurality of control data are classified, each group comprising data that can be transmitted simultaneously;

a determiner that determines to which group each of said plurality of control data belongs;

a multiplexer that multiplexes control data determined to belong to the a same group so as to generate multiplexed control data; and

a transmitter that transmits said multiplexed control data in one transmission unit.

10. (Currently Amended) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein said accumulator

accumulates, in the same group, one first control data and ~~another control data~~ that can be transmitted without waiting for response data from a communication partner to second control data.

11. (Currently Amended) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein:

the multiplexer further multiplexes, ~~for each of~~ a plurality of the groups, said control data ~~determined to belong to the group so as~~ to generate further multiplexed control data ~~for the group~~; and

the transmitter transmits the further multiplexed control data ~~generated for all of the groups~~ in one transmission unit.

12. (Previously Presented) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising a timer that repeatedly measures a predetermined time period, wherein said transmitter transmits for every time period the multiplexed control data generated for the time period.

13. (Currently Amended) A multimedia communication method that transmits control data to start transmitting stream data

comprising an image stream or a voice stream, said method  
comprising:

accumulating a plurality of groups into which a plurality of  
control data are classified, each group comprising data that can  
be transmitted simultaneously;

determining to which group each of a said plurality of  
control data belongs ~~from among a plurality of groups said  
plurality of control data are classified into, each group  
comprising data that can be transmitted simultaneously;~~

multiplexing control data determined to belong to the a same  
group and generating so as to generate multiplexed control data;  
and

transmitting said multiplexed control data in one  
transmission unit.

14. (New) A multimedia communication apparatus comprising:  
a multiplexer that packages first control data and second  
control data to generate packaged control data; and  
a transmitter that transmits the packaged control data,  
wherein

the first control data and the second control data concern  
abilities of the multimedia communication apparatus.

15. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the second control data is a message capable of being transmitted without waiting for response data from a communicating partner to the first control data.

16. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first control data and the second control data include H.245 messages.

17. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first control data includes a master slave determining message and the second control data includes a terminal ability information exchanging message.

18. (New) The multimedia communication apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the first control data and the second control data are collectively transmitted.

19. (New) A multimedia communication method comprising:  
packaging first control data and second control data to  
generate packaged control data; and  
transmitting the packaged control data, wherein

the first control data and the second control data concern abilities of the multimedia communication apparatus.

20. (New) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, wherein the second control data is a message capable of being transmitted without waiting for response data from a communicating partner to the first control data.

21. (New) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, wherein the first control data and the second control data include H.245 messages.

22. (New) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, wherein the first control data includes a master slave determining message and the second control data includes a terminal ability information exchanging message.

23. (New) The multimedia communication method according to claim 19, wherein the first control data and the second control data are collectively transmitted.